

Amsterdam - Sep. 19th. 1850. Thursday

Dear Sir,

Think of my writing a letter from this capital of
 Duteedom! Somewhere I have always thought this one of the most
 difficult places to get to; something like the source of the Nile or
 Niger - A ~~place~~ ^{place} that was famous in past days, but traditional
 now. And yet here actually I am in this sort of British Venice,
 with its canals, & little-ended houses, adorned with stucco & carvings,
 its trinkets for Gondolas, & heavy Dutchmen in loose breeches &
 wooden shoes, for swarthy Italians. And here at last, through a
 week of more disappointments, vexations, & mishaps than all the
 rest of our journey put together! And nearly broken into some ex-
 traordinary specimens! - This everlasting smoking! - I can bear one
 or two cigars of pretty good tobacco quite tolerably, but when it
 comes to 5 or 6 in the small car, & the atrociously bad & strong
 cigars they smoke here, I am quite overcome - Every pleasure has
 its skeleton, & I am sure glad & smoking have been scuttling from
 skeletons to me some of the times - If one could only get away
 I should think it unreasonable to complain, but there is no
 retreat - On the steamboat I cross from one side or find two on
 the other; I take a seat at the stern & the smokers are there be-
 fore me - I stay the cabin, but old gentlemen who don't like winds,
 have taken refuge there with their pipes - Sometimes on some ^{rail-}roads
 a smoking car is attached - But Germans generally seem to consider
 it quite a charming thing, tobacco smoke, & that to deprive anyone
 of the privilege of sharing it is not to be thought of - At the table
 I think the dessert is scarcely on the table before one comes. The candles
 for the cigars, & the men fall to smoking - You come down to break-
 fast & find several apparently contenting themselves with smoke for
 their morning repast - You go into a waiting room at the rail-road station,
 it is lined with cards forbidding to smoke - But what of that? - In
 some the papers & pipes in firm indifference - In the diligence, it
 is not allowed to smoke if disagreeable to any of the passengers - So
 though there may be none in the sentence, it does not hinder the occur-

pants, the Pipe, the conductor & the driver from repelling
themselves with the vilest of Tobacco, & favouring you with it, so
that either you must shut the windows & suffocate, or submit
to the abomination - Even in your chamber you are not safe,
for the German custom connects every room in hotels, by a
door, with the next, and Myskeer must smoke himself to
bed, & it insinuates itself through the cracks, or else he sits at
the window & the breeze brings you puffs - I believe they don't smoke
in church - Excuse me yet such a long tirade - But this morning
I had an extra charge of it - I'm in a car containing 24 people I
think & as nearly as I could see, ^{in count} were smoking, & only 3 1/2 windows
open - Ever since I have had any trouble in my liver the smell is
particularly disagreeable, & gives me a bad head-ache & makes
me quite sick - And I am quite out of patience! People may say
what they please of Americans - We are a great deal milder &
more civilized people - There is more regard to the comfort of all,
and one thing when a thing is forbidden with us, it is obeyed! -
Give me spitting over smoking! The one offends my sight, but I can
shut my eyes; but I cannot shut my nose - I used to think it
quite an outrage, when walking on horseback in the morning at home,
to detect anyone smoking, & at a puff to sully the pure air - But
poor thing, I was young & innocent then! - Now it is a whole day
when I can be free from tobacco smoke - You should see the
small boys puff their noses! And men saw hood &c. &c. with
a large, heavy pipe in their mouths! I don't think half as
much of Sir Walter Raleigh as I used to, & seriously question
whether the introduction of the potato were as great a blessing,
as that of tobacco a curse - Even as a question of political ^{economy} ~~commerce~~
think what sums of money are puffed away! If it were ex-
pended in education or even soap instead of smoke, what an
improvement, mental & physical, in the German people! -

I wrote to father from Heidelberg on Sunday, briefly describing
our ride & saying I must defer my journal sheets for the present
between Jura & Jura - so having completed myself with this little
note, I quit Heidelberg - Sunday the 15th I employed the
morning in writing - And in the afternoon we went up to the
castle & wandered round among the ruins - It is built on a steep hill

* Dr. Gray quoted from the articles of the 'Woman' - 'The arch still bears in the dead soldier's breast'

side, & of a red stone - There are many buildings of different ages
surrounding an open court in the centre, which you reach through
a gateway under an old tower, where still goes the clock, & where
still stand the quaint & rude old stone figures supporting the
roof of a part of one of the first buildings - The handsome front
are in this court - And they are fine specimens of different
styles & times - some richly ornamented with carvings & statues -
Some of the latest buildings were made by the Elector Frederic
who married Elizabeth, James the First's daughter & Charles I
sister, & who was afterwards Queen of Bohemia - One was erected
for her, & is called 'Lady Elizabeth's Palace' - The immediate outside
is surrounded by a very high, thick & strong wall - And at
the corners massive round towers - So thick & strong, that when
the French tried in 1745 to blow ^{one} it up with gunpowder, it only
split in halves, & one half fell into the ditch below, sliding solidly
down from its place - On the top of the western wall the Elector
Frederic laid out a garden for Elizabeth, which is still called 'the
Lady Elizabeth's garden' - And you pass through its ^{stone} ~~gate~~
^{the pillan} carved in imitation of a trunk surrounded with ivy leaves, which he
placed in honour of their marriage - Looking south over the town
& the lovely valley of the Neckar, & commanding also part of the
Rhine, is a fine broad terrace of stone with carved stone bal-
ustrade & seats, & opening directly from one of the fine yards of
the castle - It must have been a stately place for the old dames
& cavaliers to promenade upon! And one could not but fancy
the days of splendour, when ladies strolled out here to watch the
matted horsemen in the valley below, or came by moonlight
to saunter arm in arm - And it looked sad & solemn to see a
regular pass slot laid out, & large trees growing in the roofless rooms,
with the stone carved fire places still standing, & the lofty stone-
framed windows still pouring in the sun - Round the first
thick wall is a deep dry ditch. In some places laid out as a
garden - Then again a massive wall, & beyond terraces, & walls, &c.
till the whole hill side is fortified - It must have been very
strong! - Its last destruction was by fire - It was struck by lightning
in 1764 - The last year or two the Elector has tried in parts to
oppress them better! And people ^{sort of keepers or tenants} live in different parts, & even hang
up notices of 'I wish'd to let' I have quite a fancy to see

some time there - It is one of the most interesting, beautiful, & striking places to me which I have seen. When we were here before we went through some of the rooms where old armor is kept & the relics found there, & some of those in better preservation, & the old chapel & puppet monk cell in the confessional - They are kept locked, & you pay a little fee to a woman to show them - This time we only went through the ruined parts, & having seen a splendid sunset from Lady Elizabeth's garden, descended the hill to the town - We met at the Castle, Dr. Howe & his wife - I scarcely recognized him with his moustache - And was quite pained to see him look so sick - He said he was still sorely troubled with dyspepsia - Instead of spending his summer travelling he had been in England & Paris - They were on their way to Italy -

We packed & were all ready the night before for we were to take the 6 o'clock train to Mannheim, to take the steamer down the Rhine; so we duly got up at 4 1/2, & when almost dressed the porter came to call us! - When we went down stairs at 4 1/2, he was still the only person visible, Dr. Gray scolded & tried to hurry, but he only shook his head & talked German, there was no omnibus or carriage appearing, & time was fast going - An Englishman & his sister, whom we met at dinner the day before, were going too - At last the head-waiter came - The bills were paid, & after a desperate effort a carriage was got, we hurried in & had the satisfaction of seeing the train roll out of one end of the station as we drove in at the other - It was very provoking when we had got up so early & seen all ready ourselves! I think it would have been quite a gratification to Dr. Gray to have gone back & scolded, but as there was a train for Frankfurt at 5.13² we decided to take that & try & catch the steamer at Mayence - As we hurried across to the other train, the baggage was weighed & ticketed, & we got our places - Fortunately that railroad (I mention it honorably) was furnished with smoking cars - We had a few minutes at Barmstadt to snatch a cup of coffee, & a roll for breakfast, & got to Frankfurt in time for the train for Castel (opposite Mayence on the ^{Rhine} ~~main~~) & reached there for the steamer in good time - So that mishap ended well - On the steamer we found Mr. & Mrs. Meier & daughter of London - Mrs. Meier is a botanical gentleman, & we had been introduced to her at the conversation at Regent's Park Garden; so with them & the young Englishman & sister we had a very pleasant day - -

It had been the same in Tyrol & we saw the Austrian currency which is all paper. Even the small ones are of our size. & so are some small money that too a far as bills in other. The scenery on the Rhine did not look so beautifully as when we recended. One evil was that it was in the middle of the day, always one of the most disadvantageous times for scenery for it was bright sunshine & no shadows. Then after being down the Rhine hills which had seemed high before, looked quite insignificant. The season has been so cold so far as our unfortunate for the grapes. They say there will be scarcely any wine crop this year. Much is a general misfortune there, for many depend on the vintage for the year's income. The wind was very cold all day though the sun was warm. The scenery the beautiful old castles, most picturesque old woods, and many associated with old traditions & stories for when you Murray. Among them Bishop Hatto's Tower. Perhaps you may remember Southern's ballad about him & the rats. Then Kolandick a picturesque fragment of a ruin, said to be the remains of the tower in which Roland, returning from the Holy Land & finding his lady-love had entered a convent, built & passed the rest of his days as a hermit, was found at last dead, still gazing from the window in the convent beneath where the love of his heart had taken refuge. The sunset now was beautiful on the Roldandsch & Brachoufels opposite, as we were near Bonn, which we reached in good time, so that we passed at once to Schloss Lippsdorf, & found all the gentlemen busy at their vacation home. But as we could not accomplish our business, there was nothing to detain us, & we decided to leave by the steamboat next morning. At 10 o'clock we saw the day in Bonn, & our plan had been to go down by steamboat to Andernach in the night, & so be ready for the early morning train for Amsterdam, & so have had no sleep in Amsterdam. But we found that unfortunately Tuesday night was almost the only night in the week the steamboat did not to clear the river, so we must wait & take the day boat Wednesday. We tried a day hotel this time in Bonn, & were most comfortably accommodated at the Vidua. But the ruin of its perfection in my eyes was completed by the view morning, of the landscape, which was a lovely little bouquet. ^{breakfast} We were down at the steamboat next morning, & after waiting (with what degree of patience, for I can imagine) till 10 o'clock & losing all that precious time, the steamboat came down at length, & we sailed down to Cologne. Having deposited our luggage at a

The draperies & hair felt, the faces in they opened on the top of the head & were said to contain the skulls of Ursula's chief attendants. He took down one, opened the top, & unfolding a wrapping of crimson silk, showed us a skull encircled with a diadem of precious stones, & hair still upon one side, & marks of a wound in the top, & some black substance which he assured us was blood. Then wrapping it up he put it back, & took down St. Ursula, & showed her skull with a crown of gold & pearls. And he also showed us a stone arrow-head, cased in silver, which he said was taken from her heart! - He opened two doors & showed rows of skulls on shelves, the lower part all masked in red velvet unadorned with gold & precious stones! Tawdry & faded rows of pearls where the mouth & teeth should be!! - I wonder whether the man believed it all himself? I suppose so. - For Mrs. Francis told us when her daughter went, ~~there~~ ^{he} said, "Now when your friends refuse to believe all this, you can say you have seen it with your own eyes!" I wanted to laugh at first; it seemed so absurd. - But afterwards I felt too indignant, too sorry, & angry that men should show such things! It was a pitious spectacle; & the poor, nastily skulls, bricked out with jewels & velvet seemed to mock it all. - From there we went again to the Cathedral. To see the shrine of the 3 Kings - The three kings are the three wise men who came to worship our Saviour on his birth; they are made by the Catholic church to be 3 Eastern potentates; - one a negro; & even the names are given, of which I can only remember one, Balthazar. In some war some old German king or Emperor took their skulls from some more southern city & presented them to the city of Cologne. They are also the patron saints - So you see Cologne has enough of guardians in that way - Their shrine has been for centuries in the Cathedral. Indeed I believe the Cathedral itself is partly dedicated to them - He paid a fee for seeing the shrine & the church treasure, which goes towards the fund for completing the cathedral. - Oh! I forgot to say on leaving St. Ursula the fol de rol man, not content with the fee St. Gray dropped into his hand, said he must have twice as much for two!

At the Cathedral we were first taken into the old vestry & robing room built out on one side & very ancient - Then we were shown the shrine of St. Engelbert - The shrine is a little sort of miniature cathedral, about 3 feet long, & broad, & from 1 to 1 1/2 high. It is of silver, gilt in parts, & part silver, & there are some beautiful chasings

& other pieces of art. It is said to contain the bones of the saint -
 There were also there, some very handsome monstrances, the vessel in
 which the host is elevated & displayed. There was one beautiful one
 presented by the present pope, of most graceful design, of silver,
 with beautiful pearls & gems. The ends of the incense burner were
 one of silver, & the other of gold. There were
 superb pieces of tapestry, & other pieces, & some of the most
 parts of the church furniture very rich & splendid. But what interested
 me much, were the old sword with its richly chased & enamelled
 case, borne in olden times by the archbishop in the coronation of the Empe-
 rors of Germany - & some ancient bishop's crosses, & the jeweled crucifix also
 borne in the ancient ceremonies - The treasures having been again returned
 to their cases, & locked, we all sorts of queer modernish cup-boards in the walls
 of the old room, we were again ushered into the cathedral, & into a chapel
 behind the high altar in the choir, where is the shrine - The man unlocked
 the heavy iron doors, & pulling out a match lighted 2 gas lights in the corners,
 & so displayed the large Gothic structure, filling one little chapel - I believe
 it is of gold - It is about 4 feet long, & broad, & $\frac{1}{2}$ ft high, covered over with
 jewels, cameos, paintings in enamel, & pieces of tapestry high at each of the apertures
 clouds in niches on the sides - There was one of tapestry containing 4 inches by 3.
 He took down a sort of door at one end, fastened by a precious stone, &
 showed behind a tablet the three skulls, ranged in a row, & crowned
 with crowns of gold & diamonds, & in front of each was its name in rubies
 on the tablet. The shrine was said to be immensely valuable, worth
 over two millions of dollars before the French overran Germany - Then as
 they appropriated & carried off everything movable, & destroyed what was
 not portable, the guardians of the shrine fled with it to some safer place,
 many of the jewels were sold to support its keepers, others lost, & the place
 is supplied by imitations, & silver gilt. It is still however the scene
 of great treasure, & some of the cameos are very valuable antiques - But
 to come to the conclusion that one must know the value of precious stones
 to know that they are rich. The effect is never so great as one imagines; the
 gold is dull & tarnished, & many of the stones being set so as not to show their
 splendor. - Between the altar & the shrine, under a stone in the pavement,
 is buried the heart of Mary of Medici. And there are some interesting
 old fonts & monuments in the side chapels; especially of the early bishops
 who first helped to build the cathedral. - And one very ancient fine old painting
 before painted in oil was unveiled. - The register, in a crimson cloth, & with
 bordered with black, unlocked the iron gate for us between the choir & nave,
 & we passed through the cathedral. To go out, as the declining sun gave
 the most superb light to the painted windows; & with another magnificent
 light on the noble pillars & the arches of the nave, we made it good bye.

The tried, a little in ^{the} way, & yet some service can be done. But as
iron stout was the "some" ⁱⁿ ^{the} ^{way}, there were no less than three in
place, where however says is the original, we were rather uncertain ~~that~~
we had the true one, and after all. At any rate I do not think what
we got, it as good as what we get at home, & the price was very much the
same - Cologne itself abounds in narrow, dirty streets, & in smells of filthy
puke come up to ^{the} ^{level} of ^{the} ^{strong} descriptions - Though I think it would
be very generally in the German cities - We decided to go by rail road
"Köln" ^{to} ^{the} ^{river}, & so take the boat at 8 the next morning, instead
of having to go on board at Cologne - In taking the cars we were
rather surprised in a comfortable hotel by 7 o'clock. The steamer was
advertised to leave at 8 o'clock in the morning - but with the yesterday's ex-
perience we were not inclined to be very punctual. However our land-
lord said it was best to be there by 8, as it might be punctual, & then
we should be left, we repaired to the wharf, or pier, or whatever it must
be, being in truth a few planks for a pier, laid from a narrow street, border-
ed on one side by a high wall on the other by the river, and there with
a number of other people, we had the gratification of waiting until
12 o'clock! - Four hours! with the refreshment of sitting on one's trunk or
a hand-barrel, & towards the end broiled by the sun! - Mrs. Landlord,
who politely accompanied us to the pier, pointed out a military ^{officer}
who must wait in common with the other ^{half} ^{brother} to the
Prince of Prussia - When the boat came at last they said they had
been detained by fog - he had not seen the least trace of mist - but
fog had been up by the late afternoon train to Amsterdam, ex-
pecting to reach Bonnheim in time - But now there was no hope of that;
still they said we should get to A. by 5 1/2 o'clock, & so, at a bad night
fog & the ready for the early ^{next} ^{morning} train - the sail was dull & uninteresting,
the shores so low that there was no variety, & no very agreeable people
to talk to - We reached Emmerich, the last Prussian town, just as we
were enjoying a glorious sunset - Here the boat stopped, & ^{we} ^{saw} ^{the} ^{last} ^{Prussian}
passengers were disembarking - As we supposed however, ^{we} ^{were} ^{here} ^{going}
to Bonnheim, we remained for a while very quiet - At last I saw to my
surprise that everyone was leaving, so I begged Dr. Gray to make
some enquiries, & after receiving the great man's replies in German,
we at last found some one, who told us between English & French
that the boat would not go any farther, & we must go on shore &
go to Bonnheim by diligence - Why or wherefore or any farther ex-
planation we could not get - So having collected our baggage &

consigned it to a porter, Dr. Gray said the wisest way was to follow
that - So, marching behind, we were led into the city to a hotel
where stood a crowd of idlers, postmen, men, fruit women, & Sunday
carriage, diligences, &c - Here the waiter descended to inform us
that the water in the river was too low for the steamer to go any
farther; but that good diligences were provided, & we should reach
Bonnheim by 11! - Very comforting! He ordered some coffee, & as
it was brought boiling hot, & had managed by aid of a tea-spoon
to swallow a mouthful, we were informed all was ready & we
must take our places! I pocketed a receipt & we went to take
our seats - Fortunately we got them in the coupé - It was an un-
usually comfortable diligence & we had it not only open in front
but had fine large windows at the side - Only there was one place
for our baggage, so we had to indicate trunks & cases - They among
our feet, & ^{unconsciously} suspended them under the driver's seat, &c.
It was a queer old inn at Emmerich, one of the quaintest places I
have been in, with carved balustrade in the stairs in some flights, & on
others they were such a steep spiral, that the edge of the stairs
themselves served as banisters! - There was no division, as usual
between outside & interior, & after the driver had turned, & made
some rather incoherent remarks to Dr. Gray in German, the people
behind us told us that we must not talk to him as he was drunk,
& might fall off! - Very comforting information for a night ride!
Fortunately however it was lovely moonlight, the roads were good,
& the man, though we misjudged his horses unmercifully & made
drive very fast, managed ^{to} ^{drive} ^{the} ^{team}, & we went ^{at} ^{an} ^{even} ^{pace} in the
"frontiers" of Holland we must descend to some degree examined.
It was rather a curious sight to see a man peering into your cap
trousers, turning over your boxes, thrusting his arms into your pockets, &
& making so free ^{with} & examining into all your private washings & drawers.
We but they were very civil & not very particular, & I paused in
the back, found at their cushions & deposited all our pet toys, &c.
Dr. Gray says are regular roads for some time since -
While we were packed in vain, some took hold of us, & one our
bag, & thanks to our drunken driver, reached Bonnheim at 10 1/2 -
The Dutch cities & villages have a very different air from German,
more like Belgium - You see the ^{German} ^{names} in the

from sea from above one story & with very large windows generally
opening as casements in the middle, & arches are uncommon - And
such fine large halls in Germany in the contrary there are but
few windows in a house, in the particular instances, & they
ordinarily were small & set in the same walls - As you
paid an unwilling compliment to stretch cleanliness on being de-
posited in our room at Frankfurt, by putting his head through
one of the large lancet windows, supposing the window open!
The more up & of course in the morning, for Amsterdam, which he
reached by 10 o'clock

London - Sep. 2nd

Here we are back again, & I must hasten to think
for the mail this afternoon - I am a quite a lame, for I am
to go & pass the day with Aunt Aggie - He reached London Wed-
nesday afternoon, & I went that day to see Aunt Aggie, & was
glad to find her quite well - she has been quite sick but is
now recovering though still pale & weak - Ella visited Nicols,
& Sarah has been a great deal - yesterday we are said - little more
& he seems very well - He is down to Frankfurt Tuesday, & I must
leave till I get some news account of a letter from him, for with
him, packing, receipt & so on, scarcely find time to sleep!

I received your letter, dear Sue, in Rotterdam, the one of
Sep. 1st. & one from John - And yesterday from you again (the
11th. Sep.) & from Aggie, Charlie, & Lizzie Putnam - Many, many thanks
for them all! I am sorry my letters have not arrived more
in time - I addressed 3 journal sheets to you from Geneva which
were begun at Chamouny - then 2 sheets to Lizzy were sent from
Amsterdam, containing an account of our visit to Chamouny; & 1
sheet again, addressed to Charles, was sent from Zurich containing
the journal of Geneva, Monday, Aug. 19th - Let me know what do not
reach you, for I want to make up the missing sheets - I meant
to have written you, dear Sue, a long & separate epistle - But my wife
is always better than our dead! - How good I am to hear that
dear Grandfather is so feeble! Try most aff. love to him -
And with love untended to you all

Love your very aff. niece

I am quite longing to be quiet in Hereford & want
to get out of books & carpet bags for awhile